

LATER BY THE GULF CABLE.

Interesting News from the West Indies.

THE BAHAMAS. Holiday in Honor of Royalty—Review of the Troops—An American Vessel in Distress.

HAVANA, Dec. 9.—The Cunard steamship Corica, from Nassau, N. P., on the 7th of December, reached Havana this evening. The anniversary of the visit of his Royal Highness Prince Alfred of England to Nassau, it was observed here as a general holiday, and there was a regatta and ball. Major-General O'Connor, C. B., commanding the Queen's forces in Jamaica, and the other West India islands, reviewed the troops in Nassau and witnessed the first practice of firing with the Snider rifle. The review consists of the brigantine Constantine, from Jamaica, bound for Boston, with a cargo of coffee and cocoa, encountered a severe storm in latitude 25 north and longitude 76 west. She has put in at Nassau, leaky, and with loss of her sails, and other damage. The steamship Corica has been sold to the Royal West India Mail Company, and will make her main port of call at Jamaica, for which place she will sail from Havana.

ST. THOMAS. Effects of the Late Earthquake.

HAVANA, Dec. 9.—A passenger from St. Thomas says that by the earthquake there a canal on the island was drained and kept dry for eight hours.

PORTO RICO. Terrible Earthquake Shock on the 1st Instant.

HAVANA, Dec. 9.—Advice from Porto Rico to the 2d inst. have been received. A terrible earthquake shock occurred there on the 1st inst. At one place the inhabitants were at church hearing mass, and the scene which ensued was most piteous. The people were dashed together, the conformation was terrible, and the cries of the women and children were heartrending.

CUBA. The Cholera Panic Subsid at Santiago.

HAVANA, Dec. 9.—The panic at Santiago about the cholera has subsided, and the reports from Havana no longer cause alarm. The steamer Barcelona has arrived here.

ATTEMPTED ESCAPE FROM PRISON. Eight Men Break Out and are Recaptured—Exciting Chase—Bravery of a Boy.

An exciting affair occurred at Trenton, on Saturday afternoon, at about three o'clock. Eight prisoners, all of whom had been sentenced to four terms, made an ineffectual attempt to escape from confinement. They were employed in the blacksmith shop, and had made every preparation to "leave." The preconcerted signal was given just as a loaded wagon was passing through the gate. A board which had been loosened in the side of the shop was removed, and the eight men one after another passed through the opening, before the overseer was aware of the men's escape. Each of the desperadoes was armed with a bar of iron or a hammer. The gate-keeper, Peter Osenberg, who had his back turned towards the shop, was attacked and at once overpowered. He was struck violently in three places, his head, arm, and leg, and as they thought they had placed him hors de combat and prevented his giving the alarm, they passed out without doing him any further injury. But he immediately jumped up, closed the gate, and gave the alarm.

The only prisoners who were aware of what had happened, were those who were working in the blacksmith shop, and they kept right on as if nothing remarkable had occurred—knowing that a bullet through the head would stop the first man who should dare to follow. Some of the keepers and others at once started in pursuit. Six of the men had made straight for the Delaware bridge, and the other two had gone in different directions. One of the latter was a man named Sullivan, from Camden, who was serving out a five years' term for burglary, and who once broke out of the Camden County Jail. He ran with the vigor imparted by the hope of liberty, and took a southerly direction, towards Bordentown. A son of Mr. Robinson, the keeper, a boy only about fifteen years of age, gave chase to this ruffian, and, being swift of foot, soon came near enough to take aim and fire. The ball of the single-barreled pistol passed under Sullivan's arm, without doing any damage, and the convict turned full upon his pursuer. Swift as thought the boy cocked the unloaded pistol, and taking aim, demanded his surrender. Again the convict started to run, and while following him, young Robinson quickly reloaded his weapon. The convict was chased by the boy to the corner of a field, and finally came to a stand, with his back to the fence. He held stones in his fists, with which, while his eyes glared with anger and revenge, he threatened to kill his youthful pursuer; but the latter bravely kept him at bay until the men came up and secured the prisoner.

The other men were followed by armed men, and the boys of the neighborhood, and most of them were captured while endeavoring to cross the river in a boat to Pennsylvania. Within three-quarters of an hour the eight men were all inside of the prison walls again, in irons. It should be stated, in this connection, that only two prisoners have succeeded in escaping during the incumbency of the present keeper, and this was during his first ten months.

Among those who made this desperate attempt to regain their freedom was a man named White, from Hunterdon county. As he had twice before endeavored to escape, he was fastened by a ball and chain, of which he disencumbered himself by means of a file. The other men were John McKane, Baines, McCaffrey, Reynolds, Mathews (a horse thief), and one whose name we did not learn.—Newark Advertiser of last evening.

Return of Mrs. Gaines to New Orleans.

We observe the presence in our city of that spirited lady and most persevering and indomitable of plaintiffs, Mrs. Myra Clay Gaines, who has returned to us to prosecute her claims to the estate of her father, Daniel Clark. The remarkable history of this lady, and of the litigation which she has prosecuted with such wonderful perseverance and heroism, form a most interesting chapter in the history of our State and of our jurisprudence. It is now over thirty years since Mrs. Gaines, then Mrs. Whitney, commenced her proceedings in the courts to assert her claims as heir to the large estate once held by Daniel Clark. Without the permission of any father or guardian, she was obliged to undergo any (altering or departing, through the inevitable difficulties, embarrassments, and defeats, she has continued to the present hour the same heroic, energetic, and indomitable claimant she was nearly forty years ago, when she first learned the secret of her birth and early history. The judicial proceedings in her case, if collected together, would form a series of volumes as large and numerous as the "Encyclopedia Americana."—New Orleans Times.

Important, if True.

We are enabled to present to the readers of the Sun this morning the following astounding private telegram from General John Pope to General Swayne. We were placed in possession of this important official despatch "by way of a slant," but will vouch for its accuracy. It is literally true! and is in the following words:—ATLANTA, Ga., Dec. 3, 1867.—To Arrive Major-General Swayne, U. S. A., etc.—I have been informed by reliable sources that you are about to be introduced to the public as the author of the despatch, and I am sorry to say that you are being introduced by a false and untrue report. I have no objection to your being introduced to the public as the author of the despatch, and I am sorry to say that you are being introduced by a false and untrue report. I have no objection to your being introduced to the public as the author of the despatch, and I am sorry to say that you are being introduced by a false and untrue report.

Death of a French Executioner.

The recent death of one Simon, a celebrated public executioner in the south of France, but who, outliving his fame, like many other artists, has died in the hospital at Caracassone, has brought up the subject of death upon the scaffold once more in France. This Simon had been the hero of many adventures in the course of his career. One of these is recorded as being the original cause of the abolition of the punishment of branding. An unfortunate culprit being brought up to be marked on the shoulder with a red-hot iron by Simon, the latter let the instrument fall just when he had applied it to the flesh, so that the mark was not considered valid. Once more did he heat his iron, and once more did he raise the mark. A third time did he try and did the terrible yell of the sufferer and the shouts of execration of the populace, until the unhappy wretch fainted away and was borne from the scaffold. The affair made a great noise at the time; and a young advocate of Montpellier, where it happened, took the poor wretched convict's case in hand, and sued the executioner for damages. The facts were palpable. The man had been hurried to the very bone, so the tribunal condemned the awkward executioner to three hundred francs damages, which, the recipient being a convict, went into the public treasury. The next *facce* made by Simon was in the case of a priest condemned to death for the murder of a woman at Aix. Simon's hatred of the priesthood was well known, so that the unfortunate manner in which he let fall the knife, cutting away a portion of the skull only, was attributed to vengeance rather than to accident; and the turbulent shrieks of the spectators so troubled the executioner that, on trying a second time, he let go the cord too soon, and cut off the hand of his assistant.

This time the Court condemned its singularly unfortunate officer to three months' imprisonment and five hundred francs' fine. The next failure was at Besume, where a young poacher had been condemned for the murder of a garb-chase. Simon being unable to compete either in strength or skill with a frightful scene took place on the scaffold, the account of which has prevented the sentence of death from being passed since that time in that same city. The struggle ended in the defeat of Simon and his two assistants, and the culprit was conveyed back to prison, and an emetic of the populace of the town. This time the paragon of the South resolved that though forbidden to abolish the punishment of death, they were not forbidden to abolish the executioner, and dismissed Simon from his office. But the love of his profession was strong upon him to the last, and he would officiate as amateur whenever the professional was prevented from attending. His previous instincts were satisfied at last by his appointment to a place as attendant at the dissecting-room of the hospital of Lyons, where he remained until, worn out and infirm, he went to die at his native place. Victor Hugo had made this man the subject of a time by his "Last Days of a Condemned Convict," but the temporary publicity given to his name had faded long before his retirement into the obscurity for which it is evident he was best fitted.

The Author of Junius.

In Morival's "Life of Sir Philip Francis" just published in London, the following estimate is made of his character, implying that he was just as malignant and ungrateful as Francis as he was as Junius:—There never was a character in which light and darkness were more strongly contrasted. The deeper shades of it are brought out only too powerfully by his own revelations of his conduct and motives. With the vindictive and rancorous quality of his animosities, the world is already pretty well acquainted; not so well, perhaps, with that unhappy nature which made him quarrel with one friend and benefactor after another, and leave on record the most cutting memorials of his spite against them. I have felt at times, when falling in with these productions of perverse malevolence, as if it was a violation of what is due to the dead to publish them; but, in point of fact, many of the documents which contain them were evidently intended by himself for posthumous, if not earlier, publicity.

Setting aside altogether the sins of which Junius was guilty in this respect, those perpetrated in the unmasked person of Francis were sufficient to heavy indictment against him. One friend, supporter, patron, and colleague after another—Kinnoul, Chatbain, Thomas Wood, Calcraft, D'Oyly, Clavering, Fowke, Cooke, Fox, the Prince of Wales—those who had written well to him, defended him, shown respect to him—appear at last in his written records, branded with some unfriendly or contemptuous notice, some insinuated or pronounced aspersion, ungrateful at best, but treacherous also, if, as has been already conjectured, he meant those records to be known some day to the world. From such displays of character to these—and it is of no use for the honest biographer to attempt to disguise them—the observer shrinks with natural aversion.

Another Mortara Case.

The "Monthly Letter" of the English Protestant Alliance contains the following:—"Another Mortara case has lately occurred in Galicia. A repetition from a Jewish father came to the President of the House and Dr. Mulleib by telegraph, stating that his daughter was detained in the Convent of the Sisters of St. Benedict, in Lemberg, where she was on the point of receiving baptism. The Minister of Justice rose and stated that he had received a similar telegram, to which he had immediately replied, directing the Stadtholder to prevent the baptism, to allow the father access to his daughter, to inquire into the matter, and bring it before the tribunal, and to report about it, as well as a similar case which occurred at Biala. He explained that four weeks ago he had a similar telegram from a Jew, stating that his daughter of fourteen had absconded, taking with her money and valuables; that she had taken refuge in a convent, where they were trying to convert her; that he had tried every means to get her back, but had failed; and that he now prayed for the intervention of the Minister. The baptism in this case had been converted, but the Stadtholder, although asked three times to report, had not done so—a statement which caused cries of 'depose him!'"

The Death Penalty in Holland.

The *Courant* of Rotterdam makes a new point and an important one. It is to the gallows is too expensive an institution to be maintained by a small State. In the last budget of the Minister of Justice one item is 7046 florins for pay and pensions to executioners. As sentences of capital punishment are, on the average, only carried out once in ten years, the cost of execution may be said to cost 70,460 florins for executioners alone, not reckoning other expenses. The cost of a prisoner to the State, on the other hand, is 50 cents a day, and supposing that he is detained for twenty years, which is the maximum period, in prison, he would have cost 3650 florins only, or about a twentieth of the sum he would have cost if he had been executed.

AMUSEMENTS.

SEVENTH STREET OPERA HOUSE. SEVENTH Street, below Arch. Proprietors, J. V. TUNISON & CO. MINSTRELS. GRAND CHANGE OF PROGRAMME THROUGHOUT. CROWDED HOUSES. DELIGHTED AUDIENCES. IMMENSE SUCCESS OF THE NEW BURLESQUE. PETER PIPER. PIPER PIPER AND FORT FISHER. J. H. Bidwell, Frank Moran, W. S. Bidwell, Wm. Allen, J. Robinson, Henry Schenk, and others. THE CREATOR OF THE PROFESSION. In their respective characters. Doors open at 7 o'clock. Commence at 8. Admission 25, 50, and 75 cents. Seats, 50c. EXCELLENT SKATING THIS AFTERNOON. MOONLIGHT SKATING THIS EVENING. AT THE ARCADE. FANCY BALL. EIGHTH AND COLUMBIA AVENUE. MINSTRELS AND COMEDY. SEVEN O'CLOCK. SEVENTH AND ARCH STREETS.

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WELL COME MONDAY, DEC. 9, TO SELL THE BALANCE OF HIS STOCK OF DRESS GOODS AT Still Further Reductions in Prices.

CHEAP DEPARTMENT NOW OPEN: ENGLISH HOSIERY, HERRING SHIRTS AND DRAWERS, SKATING GAITERS, SKATING JACKETS, AND FANCY HOSIERY.

HOLIDAY PRESENTS IN LACES AND EMBROIDERIES, Put up in beautiful Oriental Boxes, imported expressly for same.

CAMEL'S HAIR SHAWLS AND SCARFS AT REDUCED PRICES. [12 1/2 m w st

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The subscribers have just received, from the late AUCTION SALES IN NEW YORK,

THREE HUNDRED PAIRS OF FRENCH LACE CURTAINS, From the lowest to the highest quality, some of the RICHEST MADE.

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The subscribers are now prepared to offer the largest assortment to be found in the city of Superior Quality Blankets, All-wool and Extra Width, for Best Family Use.

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A LARGE AND CHOICE STOCK OF REAL LACE GOODS, IN POINT, BRUSSELS, VALENCIENNES, GUMPERE, MALTESE, THREAD, REAL BLOND, CLUNY.

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